



Zuma's  
Paw Prints

## THANKSGIVING

November 29, 2006

Hi Boys & Girls,

Thanksgiving is such a nice holiday. I had turkey with pizza dressing. It was really quite good and I ate way too much. I paid for it too! The morning after Thanksgiving, I had to go to my veterinarian because my stomach was really giving me problems. The doc said dogs should not eat turkey. It will mess up their stomachs. I can sure testify to that, I was really sick.

The 2007 Iditarod race will start in just 94 days. You can tell that we are getting closer because everyone here at Iditarod Headquarters is getting busier and busier. It is not as hectic as it will be after the first of the year, but I still have to watch that no one steps on my tail as they rush about taking care of business. As of this moment we have 97 mushers on the list. The deadline for sign up is Friday, December 1. The rookies all have to have their entry packet and fee in by that date because the rookie meeting is this weekend but the veteran mushers just need to have their entry in the mail before midnight on Friday.

Four mushers have withdrawn from the race for personal reasons. Three of those were rookies and one, Ted English, a veteran of the race. Our statistics show that we have 60 mushers from Alaska, 27 from other states in the United States and ten from other countries. The statistics also show us that there are 37 rookies with 60 veterans and we have 15 females and 82 males running in the race.

We have a musher from Serbia for 2007. Aleksandar Nikolich is the first musher from Serbia to run the Iditarod. Serbia is in Europe near Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Albania and several other countries. The population is 10,664,000 people. Can you find Serbia on your world map? I have included a blank map of Serbia with this report with the Belgrade, the capital, has been located for you. Belgrade is where Aleksandar is from.

Frank Shilar was in the office a little while ago and says that he wants to make two more runs with his team of young dogs before deciding if he is going to run or not. He will either show up to sign up on Friday or he won't be participating in this year's Iditarod. He wants to make sure the young dogs are ready for it before he takes them up the trail.



Can you fill in the names of the countries surrounding Serbia?

## **Facts about Serbia**

**Land and total area:** 34,116 sq mi (88,361 sq km)

**Population (2002):** 9,396,411; fertility rate: 1.78/1000; life expectancy: 74; density per sq mi: 275

**Capitol and Largest City by population:** Belgrade, 1,717,800 (metro. area), 1,285,200 (city proper)

**Other large cities:** Pristina, 204,500; Novi Sad, 191,300; Nis, 174,000

We also have mushers from Canada, Norway, Argentina and Germany. Perhaps I need to get information on those places for you as well even though we have had mushers from those places in the past. I will see what I can find out.

For now, I have to go. My little friend, Holly is here and I want to play with her for awhile. I will put a picture of her on the site next time.

Until next time,



Lots of Tail Wags,  
Zuma